



Date: March 19, 2021

**MEMORANDUM
NO 01-21-06**

SUBJ: FORMAL RESCISSION OF THE PURPLEBOOK

1. PURPOSE

This Memorandum memorializes the Board's suspension of The Purplebook in October 2019 and formally rescinds Chairman's Memo 01-18-04 *ex post facto*.

2. BACKGROUND

a. In Chairman's Memo 01-18-04, the Board adopted The Purplebook, a document containing the Board's internal policies and procedures, effective March 23, 2018. Because it was outdated and difficult to continuously update to ensure compliance with ever-evolving changes in the law governing the Board's practice, The Purplebook was removed from the Board's website in October 2019, and Board staff were instructed to no longer use it as a reference. The Vice Chairman later published the Board's Operations Handbook in April 2020, providing an electronic copy to all Veterans Law Judges and staff and explicitly noting in the accompanying email that this new handbook expressly replaced the "old Purplebook."

b. As noted in the Vice Chairman's publication of the Board's new Operations Handbook, it is not a policy manual and is not used to adjudicate appeals. Rather, the Board is governed by statute, regulation, caselaw, OGC precedent opinion, and Secretarial memo. Veterans Law Judges have legally authorized judicial discretion to apply these authorities to the unique facts and circumstances of each Veteran's case.

3. RESCISSION

Chairman's Numbered Memorandum 01-18-04, "The Purplebook," dated March 29, 2018, is hereby rescinded.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl L. Mason".

Cheryl L. Mason
Chairman